Mrs. A. Knowles Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

English 9

**Independent Reading**

Throughout the years, educators have done much research on the effects of independent reading. Here are just a few statistics from *Becoming a Nation of Readers: The Report of the Commission on Reading* that might interest you:

* The amount of reading students do independently is consistently related to gains in reading achievement.
* Time spent on reading independently is the best predictor of reading comprehension, vocabulary size, and gains in reading.
* Independent reading is probably the major source for knowledge about writing, literary style, vocabulary, and information.
* Students in grades three through twelve learn the meanings of about 3,000 new words a year. That’s 15 words a day! I can’t teach you that many words. How would you like to take a vocabulary test on 105 new words each week?
* Beyond the third grade, students acquire the majority of the new words they learn incidentally while reading books and other material.
* Independent reading is probably the major source of reading fluency. Avid readers do more than twenty times as much reading independently as less frequent readers. These students get much more practice in reading which helps explain why they often make more academic progress.

I believe in Independent Reading because I know it works to improve EVERY READER’S reading level, no matter where you are.

The Commission on Reading recommends that students should read independently **a minimum of two hours per week**. Therefore, as part of your Intensified English 9 grade and in addition to the literature we will be reading together as part of the English curriculum, you are required to read, read, read books of your choice. To begin the project, I will allot 20 minutes of class three times a week for independent reading. That’s one hour of class time each week. Obviously, you will need to read at home as well.

# Independent Reading Guidelines

1. You may select a novel, a biography, or a work of nonfiction which presents information in narrative form as your independent reading book. Please see the attached list of suggested reading for college-bound students. I would strongly suggest that you choose at least one of these to read this semester; however, you are not required to read a book from this list. Be sure that you choose a book that challenges you. If you notice that the language in your book is easy and you are not finding any new vocabulary words, you will want to find a new book.
2. You must bring your Independent Reading to class with you **each and every day**.
3. You must read for the entire time allotted for Independent Reading. **That means no talking, no rummaging for a book, no sleeping, AND no going to the library for another book**. I WANT TO SEE YOU READING. Part of your Independent Reading grade will be based on my observation of you actually reading your book in class.
4. You may not constantly go to the library during Independent Reading time. I will schedule time in the library every few weeks. If you need to check out a book before our scheduled library session, you must do so on your own time, between classes or at lunch. Let me be very clear: IN ORDER TO RECEIVE MAXIMUM POINTS FOR READING, I MUST SEE YOU READING IN CLASS.

**INDEPENDENT READING PROJECTS**: Throughout the semester, you will keep a vocabulary log (more on that later). You will also need to give a book presentation at the end of the semester.

Dear Parent,

As part of the English 9 curriculum, your child is required to read books of his/her choice (with your and my permission) as part of the Intensified English 9 Independent Reading Project. I will give students about one hour a week to read independently, but much of the reading will need to be completed at home. This should be an ongoing “homework” assignment. Please review the attached sheet describing the Independent Reading Project for my class and the reading requirements.

Thank you for your support in helping the JHS English Department encourage our students to be lifelong readers.

Sincerely,

Mrs. A. Knowles

I have read and understand the Independent Reading Requirements for students of Intensified English 9. I will check periodically to make sure that my son or daughter's choices in books are acceptable.

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Student’s Signature Date

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Parent/Guardian’s Signature Date